Mesopotamian Empires

- Definition
  - a group of countries conquered & ruled by another country.
- first known writing system
  - Cuneiform
  - around 3500 BCE.
- the purpose of cylinder seals
  - leave 'impressions' on wet clay as a form of art
  - to mark personal property
  - to make document legally binding
- the king who first united the Sumerian city-states
  - Sargon of Akkad
  - in c. 2340 BCE
- the Babylonians became a dominant power in Mesopotamia
  - Around 1830 BCE
  - Babylon was close to the Euphrates, and only 60km from the Tigris, so it was easy for them to control the trade routes of the Fertile Crescent.
- The basic principle of Hammurabi's law code was
  - 'an eye for an eye'.
  - (That means that whenever someone did something wrong, they should have an equivalent thing done to them.)
- Babylonian ideas in arithmetic (math) and astronomy still influence us today
  - - They counted in units of 60 instead of 10.
  - - Made multiples of 12 important, influencing the way we tell the time, e.g. dozens, 1 minute = 60 seconds.
  - - Worshipped 7 planets, which later became 7 days of the week.
- The Hittites and Assyrians threatened Babylon because
  - because they had developed weapons made from iron, which were harder than bronze ones used by the Mesopotamians.
- Assyrian friezes are an important historical source because
  - they show the achievements of Assyrian kings as hunters or soldiers in the battles.
- Who conquered the second Babylonian empire to end the age of Mesopotamian civilizations and when
  - The Persians in 539 BCE.

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